

ER 9-4105

6 June 1957

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Comments on Memorandum from JCS to the
Secretary of Defense, dtd 14 May 1957,
T.S. 164549

1. Confirming our conversation of yesterday, my talk with General Erskine resulted in agreement that an Ad Hoc Committee should discuss the Joint Chief's proposal. He suggested that he would refer the paper back for representatives of the Joint Staff. I indicated that you would be the Agency representative.

2. With regard to the position that we should take on the proposal, I think you and have covered the matter well in your memorandum. Broadly speaking, I would suggest that we might agree to something along the following lines:

a. We do not recognize the existence of "unconventional warfare operations" in peacetime;

b. The Agency is responsible for covert operations under 5412, and so forth, and other directives for clandestine support of JCS war planning. The general type of support that the Agency can provide for support of war plans and peacetime operations as well is generally understood.

c. Any military operation that requires specialized support in peacetime, if overt, should be a function of the Department of Defense. If the Agency can help by covert means it should be prepared to do so.

d. We should not bog down in definitions. The JCS and the DOD should look to the Agency for support of operations in peace or war within Agency capability. The criteria should be that such operations or activities are clandestine in nature or require clandestine techniques for creation, maintenance or support.

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e. If the Agency lacks capability for any reason and the military possesses such capability, the military should proceed to exploit its capability providing only that activities and operations are properly coordinated in advance with the Agency to avoid interference or duplication.

f. A civilian-military relationship can not be the basis for limiting responsibilities. The factor should be the clandestine-overt relationship. For example, many foreign clandestine services are under military rather than civilian control. The Agency must therefore have primary responsibility for clandestine relationships without jeopardizing in any way the necessary and proper military liaison or other relationships with such services.

3. I should think that we should be able to reach agreement something along these lines.

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General, USA (Ret)

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